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AUTHORITY

AG D/A ltr, 29 Apr 1980

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

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IN REPLY REFER TO

AD 874438

AGDA (M) (3 Sep 70) FOR OT UT 702079 8 September 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 52d  
Signal Battalion for Period Ending 30 April 1970

SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Subject report is forwarded for review and evaluation in accordance with paragraph 4b, AR 525-15. Information of actions initiated as a result of subject report should be forwarded to ACSFOR OT UT within 90 days of receipt of covering letter.

2. Information contained in this report is provided to insure appropriate benefits in the future from lessons learned during current operations and may be adapted for use in developing training material.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

*Kenneth G. Wickham*  
KENNETH G. WICKHAM  
Major General, USA  
The Adjutant General

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1 Incl  
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STATEMENT #2 UNCLASSIFIED

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UNCLASSIFIED REPORT  
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ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF FOR FORCE DEVELOPMENT  
(ARMY) ATTN: FOR OT UT, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

AD No. \_\_\_\_\_  
DEC FILE COPY

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, 52D SIGNAL BATTALION  
APO San Francisco 96215

SCCPV-SG-VD-0

30 April 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned of Headquarters, 52d  
Signal Battalion for Period Ending 30 April 1970, RCS  
CSFOR-65 (R2) (U).

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1. Section 1. Operations: Significant Activities

a. MISSION: During the reporting period the 52d Signal Battalion established and maintained communications facilities in support of the Delta Military Assistance Command, and other U.S. and Free World Forces in the IV Corps Tactical Zone, RVN.

b. GENERAL: The 52d Signal Battalion is organized under MTOE-500-GC-06 and performs its mission under the control and supervision of the 2d Signal Group, its parent organization. The Battalion has been in operation the entire 89 days of this quarter.

c. ACTIVITIES:

(1) CEREMONIES:

(a) On 1 April 1970 the 52d Signal Battalion and other 1st Signal Brigade organizations celebrated 1st Signal Brigade Organization Day in Can Tho. The day opened with a ceremony during which the history of the 1st Signal Brigade and the 52d Signal Battalion was read. Several awards were also made during the ceremony. The remainder of the day consisted of organized athletics and a cook out.

(b) LTC Freeman L. Pendleton relinquished command of the 52d Signal Battalion to LTC Daryl K. Blackham on 2 April 1970 during a ceremony in Can Tho, RVN. The ceremony was attended by Major General Hal D. McGown, Commanding General, DMAC, Colonel William Maddox, Commanding Officer, 164th CAG, and Colonel Edward D. Moares, Commanding Officer, 2d Signal Group. LTC Pendleton was presented with the Air Medal and Bronze Star. LTC Pendleton has been reassigned to 1st Signal Brigade. LTC Blackham was Commanding Officer of the Nha Trang Signal Battalion (Prov) prior to his assumption of command of the 52d Signal Battalion.

FOR OTUT

702079

Inclosure

30 April 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned of Headquarters, 52d Signal Battalion for Period Ending 30 April 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U).

(2) PRINCIPAL STAFF CHANGES:

(a) LTC Daryl K. Blackham assumed command of the 52d Signal Battalion on 2 April 1970. The previous Battalion Commander LTC Freeman L. Pendleton has been reassigned to the 1st Signal Brigade Staff.

(b) The vacancy left by the departure of Command Sergeant Major George Bauman on 4 April 1970 was filled by Sergeant Major Elmer Fitzsimmons. SGM Fitzsimmons was transferred from the Phu Lam Signal Battalion. CSM Bauman has been reassigned to Alaska.

(3) DISTINGUISHED VISITORS:

(a) On 20 February 1970, CPT William Miles and CSM Brown from Air Force Advisory Headquarters and Colonel Nguyen Van Dieu from VNAF C&E visited Soc Trang. The purpose of the visit was to coordinate the ARVNization of the communications assets at Soc Trang. Present plans are to turn over the communications as well as Air Support Facilities to the VNAF.

(b) On 25 February 1970 Major General Thomas Reinsl, Commanding General, 1st Signal Brigade visited Dong Tam. The purpose of the visit was to survey the progress of the ARVNization program at Dong Tam.

(c) On 20 March 1970, Colonel John Sterling, Commanding Officer, 34th Engineer Group, and Lieutenant Colonel William Rayo, Commanding Officer, 35th Engineer Battalion, visited the 52d Signal Battalion site at Long Xuyen. The purpose of the visit was to survey the progress on the new communications bunker being built at Long Xuyen ICS.

(d) Colonel Edward D. Moares, Commanding Officer, 2d Signal Group, Colonel John Dunlop, 1st Signal Brigade Chief of Operations, and Captain Brumbaugh, Chief of Staff, COMNAVFORV visited Long Xuyen, Chau Doc, Ca Mau and all SEALORDs sites on 29 March 1970.

(e) On 18 April 1970, Brigadier General Jack A. Albright, Deputy Commanding General, 1st Signal Brigade visited the 52d Signal Battalion. General Albright inspected signal assets at approximately half of the sites operated by the 52d Signal Battalion. General Albright visited the 52d Signal Battalion again on 25 April 1970. During this visit he inspected the remaining sites.

30 April 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned of Headquarters, 52d Signal Battalion for Period Ending 30 April 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U).

(f) Brigadier General Cheadle, MACV J-6, visited the 52d Signal Battalion site at Soc Trang on 30 April 1970 to observe the progress and plans for the VNAFization of the communications assets there.

d. PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION:

(1) The 52d Signal Battalion is authorized 927 personnel. There are presently 826 personnel or 88% of the authorized strength at the end of the quarter. The Battalion is beginning to feel the effects of certain Key MOS shortages. We are currently short eight commissioned officers, one Generator Maintenance Technician, one Unit Supply Technician and seventy-nine enlisted men.

(2) The number of Key MOS shortages at the end of this quarter is about equal to the number at the end of last quarter, however only two of the MOS's appearing last quarter appear again this quarter. The decrease in the number of personnel assigned can be attributed to the troop strength out back.

(3) KEY MOS SHORTAGES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

<u>MOS</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AUTH</u>	<u>ASG</u>	<u>SHORT</u>
05C	Radio Teletype Operator	38	32	6
31J	Teletype Repairman	21	15	6
36H	Dial Central Office Repairman	29	19	10
51L	Refrigeration Specialist	9	4	5
71D	Legal Clerk	1	0	1
72B	Communications Center Specialists	129	91	32
76Y40	Supply Sergeant	7	4	3
761A	Unit Supply Tech	1	0	1
631A	Generator Maint Tech	1	0	1

SCCPV-SG-VD-0

30 April 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned of Headquarters, 52d Signal Battalion for Period Ending 30 April 1970, RCS CSFOR-65, (R2) (U).

(4) During the quarter the Battalion received 356 promotion allocations of which 227 were used. Lack of position vacancies and poor performance before promotion boards were two major reasons for turning back the allocations.

(5) During the quarter the following awards and decorations were approved for members of this command.

<u>MEDAL</u>	<u>FEB</u>	<u>MAR</u>	<u>APR</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>LAST QTR</u>
BSM	9	6	5	20	21
AIR MEDAL	0	0	1	1	0
ACM	56	11	35	102	56
PURPLE HEART	0	0	2	2	0
CERT/ACH	12	3	1	16	44

(6) There has been an increase in home town news releases due to a large turnover of personnel during the quarter. A second reason for the increase in home town news releases is the fact that more people are allowing home town news releases to be published. The breakdown of news releases is as follows:

<u>FEBRUARY</u>	<u>MARCH</u>	<u>APRIL</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>LAST QTR</u>
30	27	51	108	49

e. INTELLIGENCE:

(1) ENEMY ACTIVITIES: Thirty enemy initiated activities were reported during the quarter. This is a decrease of approximately 38% from last quarter. Over 66% of the enemy initiated activities during the quarter were directed against the three Cambodian Border Sites at Chi Lang, Chau Doc and Moc Hoa. A 26 pair cable was damaged during one of the attacks on Moc Hoa and two 52d personnel were slightly wounded during a rocket and mortar attack on Chi Lang.

(2) DEFENSIVE MEASURES: An extensive program has been initiated to repair and rebuild bunkers throughout the 52d Signal Battalion. Commo bunkers were completed at Bac Lieu, Long Xuyen,

30 April 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned of Headquarters, 52d Signal Battalion for Period Ending 30 April 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U).

Tra Vinh and Rach Gia during the quarter. The new commo bunker at Ca Mau is about 40% complete at this time.

(3) PHYSICAL SECURITY PROGRAM: Physical security inspections have been conducted at 17 sites during the quarter. Discrepancies noted during these inspections have either been corrected or are presently being corrected.

(4) COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE INSPECTIONS: During the quarter seven counter-intelligence inspections were conducted by the Battalion S-2. Seven more are scheduled for next quarter. The Battalion Headquarters received a counter-intelligence inspection in February 1970.

(5) SECURITY VIOLATIONS: None

f. ORGANIZATION:

(1) During the quarter the Signal Sites at Dong Tam, My Tho, Go Cong, and Ben Tre were transferred to the 66th Signal Battalion. The transfer was accomplished as part of the preparation for the assumption of the SEALORDS Communications commitment. The transfer was accomplished on 16 March 1970.

(2) With the loss of the four above mentioned sites the Battalion was again reorganized. The sites at Cao Lanh, Sa Doc and Moc Hoa were put under the operational control of Company C and the sites at Ha Tien and Rach Gia were transferred to Company B, 52d Signal Battalion. The relay site at Vung Liam was deactivated. Vung Liam was formerly under the control of Company C.

(3) The assumption of the SEALORDS Communications Responsibility added three new sites (Nam Can, Song Ong Doc, YRDM-20) to the 52d Signal Battalion. All three sites were placed under the operational control of A Company.

(4) Still another change in the organization of the 52d Signal Battalion was made by the activation of USASTRATCOM Support Detachments at Vinh Long and Soc Trang. These detachments consist of the Comcenter Section and the Dial Telephone Exchange.

(5) Organization Chart Inclosed.



30 April 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned of Headquarters, 52d Signal Battalion for Period Ending 30 April 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U).

g. OPERATIONS:

(1) PHU LAM CUTOVER: During the early part of the quarter the Phu Lam Relay was activated and the Can Tho Minor relay was deactivated. The Army area Commcenter circuits at all 52d Signal Battalion sites were rehomed from Can Tho to Phu Lam. In addition to being rehomed to Phu Lam all circuits were made 60 WPM full duplex. Several minor problems were encountered, but the cutover in general went very well.

(2) REORGANIZATION OF MOBILE TEAM: The Mobile Communication Team was completely reorganized and equipped. The AN/MRC-69's were replaced with second generation AN/MRC-102's and the MSC-29 was replaced by a MGC-17. An entirely new team made up of operators trained by Battalion especially for this mission replaced the old in experienced team. The change over to new equipment and personnel eliminated all the problems which plagued the original team. The team has just returned from fire base Schroeder where it spent two weeks supporting personnel who were rebuilding it after it has been over run.

(3) DEACTIVATION OF AAW52 AND AAW53: The AAW52 and AAW53, AN/GRC-50 PCM Systems were deactivated on 1 March 1970. Both systems were replaced by AN/TRC-24/TCC-7 systems (AAH52 and AAH53) early in February. The AN/TRC-24 equipment was installed as part of the preparation for turn over to the ARVN.

(4) OPERATION SEALORDS: On 25 March the 52d Signal Battalion began to assume responsibility of communications support for operation SEALORDS. The 52d Signal Battalion was tasked to operate and maintain AN/GRC-10/TCC-3 systems at six locations throughout the IV Corps Tactical Zone. Three of the sites, Nam Can, Song Ong Doc, and YRDM-20 are located on Navy barges while the other sites, Long Xuyen, Ca Mau, and Chau Doc already have 52d Signal Battalion personnel present. Each terminal is manned by two 52d Signal Battalion personnel who are attached to the Navy for rations, quarters, and POL support. The Battalion Electronic Maintenance Facility has been tasked to provide maintenance support for the equipment. Eight additional sites are expected to be added during the next quarter.

(5) CONSTRUCTION OF TRA VINH TOWER: During the end of March a new AD-216 tower was constructed at the Tra Vinh signal site. The tower was required to upgrade the AAHO9 system from Tra Vinh to Vinh Long. A new commo bunker was also built at Tra Vinh since the site

30 April 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned for Headquarters, 52d  
Signal Battalion for Period Ending 30 April 1970, RCS  
CSFOR-65 (R2) (U).

had to be relocated so as to provide sufficient area to construct the new tower. The new tower improved the system to the extent that it permitted the deactivation of the troublesome relay at Vung Liem.

(6) CAN THO CABLE PROJECT: The construction of a new Chinook Pad at the end of the Can Tho Airfield has dictated the relocation of approximately three thousand feet of underground cable. The cable was relocated as a self help project with some assistance from the engineers. In addition to this cable project the complete Can Tho outside plant was rehabilitated during the quarter. The rehab made available approximately 100 new cable pairs.

(7) UPGRADE OF PHU LAM CIRCUITS: On 15 April three commcenter circuits XJ4W, Dac Lieu to Phu Lam, XC5P, Sa Dec to Phu Lam and XJ4Q, Vinh Long to Phu Lam were upgraded from 60 WPM to 100 WPM. The upgrade was necessary to handle the heavy volume of traffic from Phu Lam to these sites. The circuits are presently operating on modified TT-76's and TT-98's, but are scheduled to use AN/FGC-25's in the near future.

#### h. TRAINING:

(1) OJT PROGRAM: The OJT program in the Battalion is used to develop a high degree of technical proficiency within the Battalion. In addition, the OJT program is used to train personnel required to fill key slots and critical MOS's which are vacant due to personnel out backs. There were 390 personnel trained under the OJT program during the last quarter. The breakdown is as follows.

<u>MOS</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>PERS TNG IN MOS</u>	<u>PERS CROSS TNG</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>LAST QTR</u>
05B	RADIO OPR	9	3	12	15
05C	RTT OPR	24	4	28	45
31E	FLD RAD RPM	6	2	8	8
31M	RAD REL CARR ATTN	70	4	74	95
31Z	ARMY AREA COM CH	15	3	18	23
36C	POLE LINE MAN	20	5	25	42

SCCPV-SG-VD-0

30 April 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned of Headquarters, 52d  
Signal Battalion for Period Ending 30 April 1970, RCS  
CSFOR-65 (R2) (U).

<u>MOS</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>PERS TNG IN MOS</u>	<u>PERS CROSS TNG</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>LAST QTR</u>
36H	DIAL CENTRAL RPM	10	2	12	16
52B	PWR GEN OPR MECH	7	4	11	9
63B	WHEEL VEH MECH	10	3	13	15
71B	CLERK TYPIST	2	3	5	9
72C	TEL SWD OPR	21	2	23	39
76U	ELEC PARTS SPEC	3	1	4	6
76Y	GEN SUPPLY SPEC	4	1	5	9
94B	COOK	20	2	22	23

(2) SPECIAL TRAINING PROJECTS: Special training projects during this reporting period consisted of USATF 1st Signal Brigade courses and special classes on the operation and maintenance of AN/GRC-10's in preparation for assumption of the SEALORDS commitment. The following chart shows the breakdown of USATF 1st Signal Brigade courses.

SPECIAL TRAINING PROJECTS

<u>COURSE</u>	<u>ATT</u>	<u>ALLOC</u>
AN/GRC-106 MAINT	1	1
AN/GRC-106 OPR	1	2
PCM OPR	4	4
PCM MAINT	1	1
PCM ORIENT COURSE	2	2
AN/TRC-24 OPR	2	2
TP INST/RPM	1	1
PLL	10	10

30 April 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned of Headquarters, 52d  
Signal Battalion for Period Ending 30 April 1970, RCS  
CSFOR-65 (R2) (U).

<u>COURSE</u>	<u>ATT</u>	<u>ALLOC</u>
CABLE SPLICER	3	4
MODE V MAINT	1	2
TOTAL	26	29

1. LOGISTICS:

(1) REDUCTION OF PLL: The Battalion reduced its total PLL by 43.8% during the quarter as part of a Brigade-wide drive to reduce PLL by 50%. Continued emphasis will be placed on further reduction of non-demand supported items in order to establish a dynamic PLL status.

(2) REMANUFACTURING OF COMPONENTS: A Battalion -wide inventory was conducted during the quarter in an effort to identify and return all components of mobile communications systems to their proper place. The success of our effort was demonstrated by the significant change noted in the Weekly Command Deadline Report during that period. The importance of maintaining the integrity of all remanufactured equipment was pointed out to newly assigned personnel.

(3) RETURN OF UNMODIFIED AN/GRC-106's: During the quarter a total of 16 unmodified AN/GRC-106's were turned into the 147th ELM Co for replacement. A five day extension for return of the unmodified AN/GRC-106's was requested and authorized in order to effect the change of equipment at isolated sites with no interruption in service. There are 12 unmodified RT662's remaining in the Battalion. Those will be exchanged as soon as additional modified sets are made available.

(4) BUNKER CONSTRUCTION: Three communications bunkers were constructed during the quarter. New bunkers were built at Long Xuyen, Bac Lieu and Tra Vinh. A fourth communications bunker at Ca Mau is expected to be completed early next quarter.

2. SECTION 2. LESSONS LEARNED; COMMANDERS OBSERVATION, EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

a. PERSONNEL:

(1) AWARD POLICY:

30 April 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned of Headquarters, 52d  
Signal Battalion for Period Ending 30 April 1970, RCS  
CSFOR-65 (R2) (U).

(a) OBSERVATION: Due to oversight, some deserving individuals depart this unit without receiving an appropriate award.

(b) EVALUATION: Often in the past, deserving individuals have failed to receive an appropriate award upon departing this Battalion. In order to prevent future occurrences, a suspense system has been established where Company Commanders are informed by letter of personnel DEROSing in a particular month, 60 days prior to the first day of that month. A suspense date for submission of award recommendations or explanation of reasons for not recommending an award is assigned to each individual. This system has worked very effectively within the Battalion.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: That other units experiencing problems similar to the one described above, set up a notification and suspense system for recommending awards.

b. INTELLIGENCE:

(1) PHYSICAL SECURITY:

(a) OBSERVATION: Because of the large area covered by this Battalion it is difficult to inspect all sites for all aspects of Physical Security.

(b) EVALUATION: The large area covered by the Battalion and the additional responsibilities of the Battalion S-2 make it impossible for him alone to check Physical Security at all sites on a timely basis.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: That each company appoint a physical security officer to perform frequent Physical Security inspections of all company sites. This method is presently used by our Battalion and makes it possible for as many as 4 or 5 additional inspections per site per quarter.

c. OPERATIONS: None

d. ORGANIZATION: None

e. TRAINING: None

f. LOGISTICS:

30 April 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned of Headquarters, 52d  
Signal Battalion for Period Ending 30 April 1970, RCS  
CSFOR-65 (R2) (U).

(1) SLINGING GENERATORS:

(a) OBSERVATION: To prepare a 60 KW generator for sling loading it is advisable to remove the muffler.

(b) EVALUATION: During a recent combat essential mission a 60 KW generator was slung in preparation for transport by a CH-47 Chinook helicopter. While in a hover position, the 60 KW generator with muffler was hooked to the aircraft. The aircraft began its climb and the slings attached to the four corners became taut. The generator began to oscillate in the down draft. The slings bound together near the top of the generator and tore the muffler away from the generator. The muffler flew clear of personnel and aircraft and caused no additional damage.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: That prior to sling loading 60 KW generators with mufflers on top, the bolts be removed and the muffler disconnected inside the cabinet.

g. COMMUNICATIONS:

(1) CABLE SPLICES:

(a) OBSERVATION: Underground cable splices, no matter how well constructed, tend to deteriorate and leak. This is especially true in the Mekong Delta with its high water table.

(b) EVALUATION: Many cable splices in the IV Corps tactical Zone have had to be replaced during the past quarter because they had deteriorated and leaked. With the high water table in the Mekong Delta many cable splices are continually kept wet and therefore eventually deteriorate. It has been found that by placing all splices on splice pedestals this problem is eliminated. This method also provides ready access to the splice should any trouble occur in it.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: That with the increased emphasis being placed on buried cable, all splices in areas with a high water table be placed on splice pedestals.

SCCPV-SG-VD-0

30 April 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned of Headquarters, 52d  
Signal Battalion for Period Ending 30 April 1970, RCS  
CSFOR-65 (R2) (U).

H. MATERIAL: None

I. OTHER: None

1 Incl  
as

*Daryl K. Blackham*

DARYL K. BLACKHAM  
LTC, SigC  
Commanding

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21 MAY 1970

SCCPV-SG-00 (30 Apr 70) 1st Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 52d Signal  
Battalion for Period Ending 30 April 1970, RCS CSFOR - 65 (R2)(U)

DA, Hqs, 2d Signal Group, APO SF 96491

TO: Commanding General, 1st Signal Brigade, ATTN: SCCPV-OP, APO SF 96384

1. Subject report is forwarded in accordance with 1st Signal Brigade Supplement 1 to AR 525-15.
2. The report has been reviewed and concurred in by this headquarters.



EDWARD D. MEARES  
Colonel, SigC  
Commanding



SCCPV-OP-ATA (30 Apr 70) 2d Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned of Headquarters,  
52d Signal Battalion for Period Ending 31 January 1970,  
RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)

DA, HQ, 1st Signal Brigade (USASTRATCOM), APO 96384 17 June 1970

TO: Commanding General, United States Army, Vietnam, ATTN: AVHOC-DST,  
APO 96375

1. Subject report is forwarded in accordance with AR 525-15.
2. This headquarters has reviewed the report and concurs in it.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

*O. V. Bonebrake*  
O. V. BONEBRAKE  
MAJ, AGC  
Adjutant General

CF:  
Commanding General, U.S. Army Strategic Communications Command,  
ATTN: SCC-OPS-RT, Ft Huachuca, Arizona 85613  
Commanding Officer, 2d Signal Group, APO 96491  
Commanding Officer, 52d Signal Battalion, APO 96215

AVHGC-DST (30 April 70) 3d Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned of Headquarters, 52d  
Signal Battalion for Period Ending 30 April 1970, RCS  
CSFOR-65 (R2)(U)

Headquarters, United States Army Vietnam, APO San Francisco 96375 7 JUL 1970

THRU: Commanding General, United States Army Strategic Communications  
Command-Pacific, APO 96557

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT,  
APO 96558

This Headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned  
for the quarterly period ending 30 April 1970 from Headquarters, 52d  
Signal Battalion and concurs with comments of indorsing headquarters.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

  
D. J. Winter  
for CPT, AGC  
Assistant Adjutant General

Cy furn:  
1st Sig Bde  
52d Sig Bn


SCCP-OP3 (30 April 1970) 4th Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned of Headquarters,  
52d Signal Battalion for Period Ending 30 April 1970,  
RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)

Headquarters, U. S. Army Strategic Communications Command-  
Pacific, APO San Francisco 96557 15 JUL 1970

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN:  
GPOP-DT, APO 96558

1. Subject report is forwarded in accordance with AR 525-15.
2. This headquarters has reviewed and concurs with subject report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

  
A. J. SHORT  
MAJ, AGC  
Adjutant General

CF:  
CG, USARV, APO 96375 wo incl  
CG, 1st Sig Bde (USASTRATCOM), APO 96384 wo incl  
CO, 2d Sig Gp (USASTRATCOM), APO 96491 wo incl  
CO, 52d Sig Bn (USASTRATCOM), APO 96215 wo incl

GPOP-DT (30 Apr 70) 5th Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 52d Signal Battalion for Period  
Ending 30 April 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 21 JUL 70

THRU: ~~Commanding General~~, US Army Strategic Communications Command,  
Fort Huachuca, Arizona 85613 7/23/70 H

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the  
Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

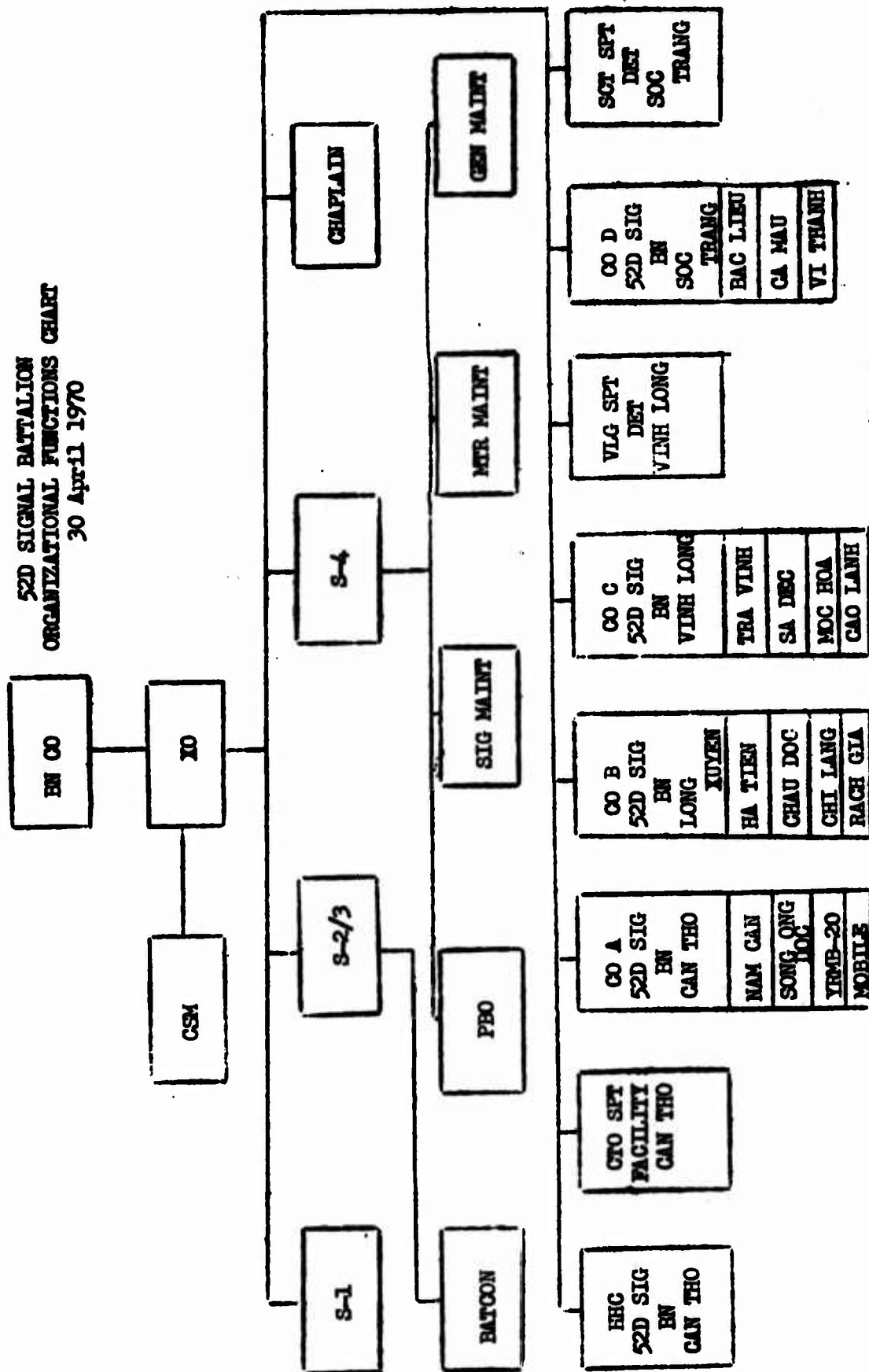
This headquarters concurs in subject report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:

D.D. CLPHE  
2LT, AGC  
Asst AG

CF:  
CG USASTRATCOM-PAC  
DA ACSFOR

52D SIGNAL BATTALION  
ORGANIZATIONAL FUNCTIONS CHART  
30 April 1970



UNCLASSIFIED

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13. ABSTRACT			

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